

United States Senate

May 4, 2020

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The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

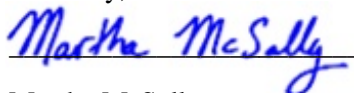
Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act is an unprecedented piece of legislation that was needed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress' intent with this legislation was to provide immediate and broad financial relief to private and public sector entities. Title V of the CARES Act appropriated \$150 billion to ensure state and local governments have funding for necessary expenditures due to the pandemic that were not accounted for in their most recent budget and were incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

However, the Department of Treasury's (Treasury) April 22, 2020 guidance¹ and FAQ² on this topic have unjustly narrowed the scope of the legislation and restricted state and local governments' ability to fully realize the benefits of the law. I request that you consider expanding what constitutes an eligible expenditure, specifically regarding fundamental public safety services including law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and other first responders. In order to achieve this objective, modification of the existing guidance or issuance of additional guidance for clarification should be considered.

State and local governments are critical to providing a vast array of basic and necessary core services to citizens throughout the country. For this reason, it is imperative that they have broad discretion to utilize CARES Act funding as Congress intended. Thank you for your consideration of this pressing issue and I look forward to working with you moving forward.

Sincerely,



Martha McSally

¹ <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Guidance-for-State-Territorial-Local-and-Tribal-Governments.pdf>

² <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>